

Gear, Methods and Facilities Used in Several
Bait Fisheries in the Pacific

By

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An adequate and steady supply of live bait is essential to the success of a pole-and-line fishery for tunas. The Japanese western Pacific and the American eastern Pacific tuna fisheries utilize the greatest amount of live bait. The live-bait, pole-and-line tuna fisheries in Hawaii, Ryukyu, Philippine, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand and a few other areas utilize smaller quantities of live bait. This paper describes briefly the gear, methods, and facilities that are used in these Pacific areas.

Japanese Western Pacific Bait Fishery

The Japanese live-bait, pole-and-line fishery for skipjack tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis; yellowfin tuna, Thunnus albacares; and albacore, T. alalunga, now utilizes about 20,000 metric tons of anchovies as live bait annually. The anchovy, Engraulis japonica, constitutes about 97% of the live bait used. Previously, the sardine, Sardinops melanosticta, was the predominant species used. The use of the scad, Decapturus muroaji, and juveniles of the

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